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Annual Report

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1941

By A. G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

FARNWORTH :
J. WHATMOUGH, PRINTER, ELLESMERE STREET
1942

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

Like the two previous reports, the present one is, on the instruction of the Ministry of Health, abbreviated, and gives a mere outline of the work done during the year.

In spite of war conditions all the medical services of the town were maintained on a peace-time level.

The vital statistics for 1941 contain two outstanding features—the one pleasing, and the other rather disquieting.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 43.6 is not only the lowest on record for Farnworth, but, for the first time in the history of the town, is lower than the general rate for England and Wales, which is 59.

On the other hand, the fact that 33 babies were born dead, against an average of 17 for the previous 5 years, would seem to indicate that the present time of stress and strain is adversely affecting the health of expectant mothers. I do not know at the moment whether other districts have a similar story to tell. If the still-birth rate has shown a general rise, there would appear to be an urgent need for investigation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. GLASS.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN J. HEATHCOTE.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR M. P. McGRATH.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman J. Stevenson, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P.

Councillor A. Hindley

„ H. G. Holland

„ R. H. Rowlands, C.C.

„ R. H. Urnson, J.P.

„ A. H. R. Willis

„ J. Kirkman

„ P. Helme

„ S. Bowling

„ J. Almond

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. H. ROWLANDS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : THE MAYORESS (MRS. E. STEVENSON)

Members :

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P.

Councillor Beck

Alderman Heathcote

Alderman Jones

Councillor Kirkman

Alderman McManus

Alderman Seddon, J.P.

Councillor McGrath

„ Willis

„ Smith

„ Almond

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooke, J.P.

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Wilcockson

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 1931 ... 28,717
 Estimated, 1941 (middle) ... 26,420.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	369	202	167
Illegitimate	8	5	3
Total ...	377	207	170
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	14.2		
Still Births	33	21	12
Rate per 1,000 Total Births...	78.0		

DEATHS : 358 173 185

Death-rate per 1,000
 population ... 13.5

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	16	8	8
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	43.6		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)... 34
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil.
 Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages) ... 3
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)... 1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1941.

Cancer	34
Cerebro spinal fever	1
Whooping Cough	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1
Syphilis	4
Influenza	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	13
Other tuberculous diseases	4
Diphtheria	3
Diabetes	5
Heart disease	102
Other circulatory diseases...	6
Bronchitis	33
Pneumonia (all forms)	16

Other respiratory diseases	...	...	2
Other digestive diseases	...	...	7
Nephritis	...	...	15
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	27
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	13
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	2
Road traffic accidents	...	...	5
Suicide	...	...	3
Other deaths from violence	...	...	6
Other maternal causes	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	46
Total			358

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) Medical :

Medical Officer of Health...Alexander G. Glass, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (also
M.O.H. Kearsley U.D.C.)

Ante-natal Clinic ... R. Newton, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
M.R.C.O.G.

Puerperal pyrexia.....James Scott, M.B., Ch.B. (as required)

Ophthalmic Surgeon.....James Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B. (also School
Oculist), resigned March
John Morrison, M.B. Ch.B. (also School Oculist),
appointed March.

Aurist.....G. Gordon Mowat B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (also
School Aurist)

Dental Officer.....G. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental
Officer)

(b) Others :

Chief Sanitary Inspector ...H. T. Ogden, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors S. Seel, A.R.S.I. (also Market Superintendent)
A. H. S. Lewis, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors :.....Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs M.C.W.
(also School Nurses) and C.M.B.
Mrs. H. Cunliffe, S.R.N.
Miss P. Law, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)

Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., R.S.I.
Clerks.....T. Shaw (part time)
Miss J. Harrison (part time)

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General. No change.
- (b) Infectious Diseases. No change.

MIDWIVES.

No change.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

The arrangements which have existed for many years with Ainsworth Hospital for the reception of cases of smallpox still hold, but as that hospital has now been taken over by the Government for the treatment of cases of minor infectious disease occurring in billeted households for war evacuees, Ainsworth has arranged for any cases from Farnworth to be received temporarily at Astley Sanatorium.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

Salford Corporation, with whom arrangements exist for the admission of cases of infectious disease (other than smallpox) to Ladywell, have (owing to the closing of Ladywell) had to make arrangements with neighbouring hospitals. These arrangements have proved satisfactory. In addition, Bolton Corporation has helped us over a difficult time by admitting a proportion of our cases to Hulton Lane.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As before.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

As before.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

As before.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As before.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1941—

Number of privy middens	...	...	...	5
„ closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	13
„ pail closets	...	...	...	5
„ fresh water closets	...	...	...	8855
„ waste water closets	...	...	...	292
„ dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	Nil
„ movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	...	8456
„ houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	8262

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. As before.

TIPS. As before.

Sanitary Inspections during 1941 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 836.

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 383, No. abated 325.

No. of notices served : Informal 188, Statutory 22.

There were no legal proceedings.

Shops and Offices—

	Inspections	Defects and Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934. relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	46	1	1
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sani- tary conveniences, etc	11	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of In- spections	Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power	4	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	8	—	—
Other premises	—	—	—

2. Defects found : Nil

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) Insecticides.

(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	24

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 11 dairy farms in the district with approximately 215 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

11 samples were examined during the year, 5 of which were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Tubercle bacilli was not found in any of the samples.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected at regular intervals. During the year the following food was condemned and surrendered : 1130 lbs. beef, 488 lbs. lamb, 120 lbs. pork, 56 lbs. carrots, 112lbs. potatoes, 1059 tins of various foods.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in collaboration with the local Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

19 cases of diphtheria (including 2 Bolton cases from Townleys Hospital) were notified during the year, against an average of 31 for the previous 5 years. There were 3 deaths, in none of which cases had the child been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 and 10,000 units and 1,000 units, the two former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

During 1941 antitoxin to the amount of 208,000 units was issued to medical men.

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

An immunisation clinic was held weekly during the year, and much propaganda work was undertaken.

The following table shows the number of children who were fully protected during the year:—

Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.
31	61	40	47	37	43	27	32	34
9-10 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	11-12 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	13-14 yrs.	Over 14	Total		
31	40	63	65	38	5	594		

There was one case of diphtheria notified in an immunised child.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 69 cases (including 2 Bolton cases from Townleys Hospital) were notified, against an average of 95 per year for the previous five years. There were no deaths.

PNEUMONIA.

Of the notifiable varieties 27 cases were reported, while the average number during the previous five years was 65 per year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

25 cases were notified during the year, only 7 of which belonged to Farnworth; the remainder were notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to outside districts.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.

Of the 6 cases notified, only 1 was a Farnworth case.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 12 cases notified during 1941. Only 3 of these were Farnworth cases. All made a satisfactory recovery.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING 1941.

NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	No.
Swabs (for diphtheria) ...	38 (5 positive)
Blood (for typhoid) ...	2 (negative)

The following is a list of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1941 :—

Disease.	No.
Scarlet fever.	69
Diphtheria.	19
Acute influenzal pneumonia	2
Acute primary pneumonia	25
Puerperal pyrexia.	25
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	12
Cerebro spinal fever.	6
Erysipelas.	2
Measles.	23
Whooping Cough.	167

Cases removed to hospital from the district :—

Scarlet fever ...	25
Diphtheria ...	10
Cerebro spinal fever ...	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified :—

Respiratory ...	21
Non-respiratory ...	11

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES.

In common with other districts, a large number of cases of scabies occurred during the year.

These were mostly confined to school children, but in many cases the younger members of the family were also affected, and in a few cases the parents contracted the disease. All were treated at the clinic, and by the end of the year the disease had considerably abated.

No. of pre-school children treated ...	21
" " " " attendances	101
No. of adults treated ...	3
" " " " attendances ...	18

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. HEALTH VISITING.

Each of the four nurses employed by the Council carries out the combined duties of the school medical service and of health visiting.

2. THE WELFARE CLINIC. As before.

3. ANTENATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 28 sessions were held, the Gynæcologist being in attendance.

244 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 602 attendances. Of the 244 cases, 74 attended on one occasion only, 65 came twice, 58 three times, 21 four times, 18 five times, 6 six times, 2 seven times. 105 were expectant for the first time (primiparæ). The ages of the primiparæ are shown in the following table:—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
13	49	22	13	6	2

All morbid conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF PATIENTS.

By the end of the year 200 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements:—

					Primiparæ.	Multiparæ.
No. confined	...	...	...	...	85	115
Confinement at home	...	...	...	...	36	65
„ „ Bolton Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	...	—	1
„ „ Townleys Hospital	...	...	...	...	47	45
„ „ St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	...	...	2	4
Vertex presentation	...	...	...	...	81	112
Breech presentation	...	...	...	...	4	—
Other	...	...	...	...	1	3
Labour normal	...	...	...	...	79	107
Labour normal but prolonged	...	...	...	...	1	4
Labour induced	...	...	...	...	1	—
Forceps delivery	...	...	...	...	4	1
Cæsarian section	...	...	...	...	—	2
Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1
Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	...	4	1
Placenta prævia	...	...	...	...	—	1
Adherent placenta	...	...	...	...	—	1
Condition of mother satisfactory	...	...	...	...	84	114
„ „ „ delayed recovery	...	...	...	...	1	1

Condition of child :

Alive and well	77	105
Still-born	7	4
Died within 2 weeks	2	2
Premature	—	3

Seven cases attended the post-natal clinic during the year, and made 8 attendances.

4. CONVALESCENT HOMES. As before.

5. HOME HELPS.

None supplied during the year.

6. MATERNITY CASES.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby any woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 63 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

In addition to the arrangements with Townleys Hospital the Council has made financial arrangements with St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, for the reception of difficult cases of labour. Six such cases were admitted during the year.

7. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one maternal death during 1941.

8. EMERGENCY UNIT.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous. There were no cases requiring this service during 1941.

9. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were only three cases on the register. They were visited regularly.

10. DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers,
for the year 1941.

No. of mothers referred by M.O.H. ...	43
„ „ „ treated	40
„ „ „ attendances	141
„ „ „ permanent fillings	46
„ „ „ extractions	179
„ „ „ scalings and polishings	6
„ „ „ dentures	9
„ „ „ remade	1
Other treatment to permanent teeth ...	27

Dental treatment for pre-school children, for the year 1941.

No. of children referred by M.O.H.	...	34
„ „ „ treated	... ..	35
„ „ attendances	... ..	60
„ „ of fillings in temporary teeth	...	25
„ „ temporary extractions	... ..	45
„ „ cases given advice	... ..	1
Other treatment to temporary teeth	...	13

11. TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Dr. Gordon Mowat, Aurist to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 17 sessions during the year. 28 pre-school children were examined and treated.

11 pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

12. MINOR AILMENTS.

112 pre-school children attended the clinic during the year, making in all 706 attendances.

13. ORTHOPÆDICS.

16 pre-school children attended the Orthopædic Clinic during the year, and made 35 attendances. 12 surgical appliances, i.e., boots, irons, etc., were supplied through the Clinic. 1 pre-School child, admitted to Biddulph Hospital during 1940, was still in at the end of 1941.

14. DEFECTIVE VISION.

31 pre-school children were examined by the School Oculist. In 14 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, and for the remainder other treatment was advised.

15. MEDICAL OFFICER'S CONSULTATIONS AT THE CLINIC.

The Medical Officer had 540 consultations at the clinic during the year. Defects were treated.

Summary of work done by Maternity and Child Welfare Department,
in 1941 :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	398
Revisits, under 1 year	...	...	...	2582
„ 1-5 years	...	...	...	3841
Expectant Mothers :—				
First visits	...	...	...	150
Revisits	...	...	...	265

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	126
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	29
Special visits	...	...	...	159
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	7550

Clinic :—No. of Infants under 12 months	...	532
Children between 1 and 5 years	...	716
Total attendances of above two groups	...	6796
Average attendance per session	...	44
Expectant Mothers—Number	...	297
„ „ Attendances	...	1083

The usual well known brands of milk are stocked at the clinic and are available to any mother on payment.

The sales of dried milk amounted to 10,739 lbs.

